

The Life of Isaac

Part 2 – MY/God's Plan

Genesis Journey

Genesis 25:22 And the children struggled together within her; and she said, *If it be so, why am I thus?* And she went to enquire of the LORD.

23 And the LORD said unto her, Two nations *are* in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and *the one* people shall be stronger than *the other* people; and the elder shall serve the younger.

- Rebekah had an issue
- She took it to the Lord
- God shared future plans for their children

Genesis 25:27 And the boys grew: and Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field; and Jacob was a plain man, dwelling in tents.

28 And **Isaac loved Esau**, because he did eat of *his* venison: but **Rebekah loved Jacob**.

29 And Jacob sod pottage: and Esau came from the field, and he was faint:

30 And Esau said to Jacob, "Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red *pottage*; for I *am* faint:" therefore was his name called Edom.

31 And Jacob said, "Sell me this day thy birthright."

32 And Esau said, "Behold, I *am* at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me?"

33 And Jacob said, "Swear to me this day;" and he sware unto him: and he sold his birthright unto Jacob.

34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentils; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way: thus Esau despised *his* birthright.

Genesis 25:19-34 & Genesis 27:1-46 (Specifically reference key verses highlighting the prophecy about the brothers, Isaac's favoritism, Rebekah's scheme, and Jacob's deception.)

Introduction:

- We have a good family nucleus here
 - Dad, Mom...twin sons

- Each boy developing into their own personalities
- But each boy wrestling with the glaring issue of favoritism by their parents
- Esau seemed the stronger with his outer display of vim and vigor, a hairy hunter...a man's man...and Isaac ate that up
- But then you have little Mr. plain...Jacob, who's name literally means to deceive, who likes to cook and work in the house with his mom...seemed to be the weaker of the two
- I think we all know, dysfunction has no prejudice...
- How hard is it to wait on God???
- How many of us would just be honest and admit we have tried to help God out a time or two?
- **Genesis 27** tells us a story of family, favoritism, faithlessness, feasting, being fooled, and a full-time family feud

- So, Isaac is now getting old and must pass on the Birthright Inheritance and the blessings of God's plans to his two sons
 - He sends his favorite son, Esau, out to get some deer meat for them to enjoy as Isaac passes the patriarchy over to his preferred son
 - He is nearly blind and might have been hard of hearing too...but I will get to that
- Esau, the Hairy Hunter, the older of the twins by mere minutes, hadn't told his dad...
 - I was starving to death one day some time ago, and well I sold the birthright to Jacob
 - No, he went to get the meal his father asked for
- Rebekah, the mom, the one who needed answers from the Lord and got them
 - Don't think for one minute Jacob hadn't heard the story
 - I can't help but think that she may have had a hand in Jacob asking for the birthright sale

- Now she honestly believes this is the opportunity to “fulfill God’s Will” for the elder to serve the younger
- She tells Jacob to get a goat, and she would fix it to taste like deer...
- She wanted him to feed Isaac and ask for the blessing, but to dress up like Esau and try to fool her nearly blind husband
- She even told him, when he had reservations that Isaac would catch on, that she would take the heat
- Jacob, the supplanter, the catcher of heels, the one who will trip you up, and the younger twin
 - Jacob was loved by Rebekah
 - Jacob was plain and probably went unnoticed by most
 - Which is just the way you would want it to be, so no one sees you coming...
 - He was certainly an opportunist and took advantage of Esau’s weakness to gain the birthright

- He had reservations when his mother wanted him to lie to dad...not because it was wrong, but that dad would find out and bust him
- He deceived Isaac by putting on the goat hair on his arms and neck, dressed in Esau's clothing to smell like him, and disguised his voice
- Think about the amount of effort that went into this ruse
- This family certainly had some issues...

I. The Premise: God's Revealed Will (Genesis 25:23)

- **Remember what God told Rebekah?**
- **Genesis 25:23** And the LORD said unto her, Two nations *are* in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and *the one* people shall be stronger than *the other* people; and the elder shall serve the younger.
- God made it clear that Jacob would get the inheritance
- God will often reveal His Will through His Word

- **But** Do we truly believe that God's plans are better than our own, even when we can't see the path ahead?

II. The Problem: Human Manipulation (Genesis 27)

- **Isaac's Disregard:** Despite knowing God's will, Isaac favored Esau and intended to bless him.
 - This was rooted in his personal preference ("because I liked to eat his game").
 - This reveals how easily personal desires can cloud our spiritual judgment.
- **Rebekah's Scheme:** Driven by her belief in the prophecy and her favoritism towards Jacob,
 - Rebekah concocts a deceitful plan to secure the blessing for Jacob.
 - How blind would one have to be to believe that in order to be in God's will, one would have to deceive?
- **Jacob's Complicity:** Jacob, though perhaps aware of God's promise, readily participates in the deception.

- His willingness to lie and deceive reveals a lack of faith in God's ability to fulfill His promises in His own way.
- **The Fallout:** Describe the immediate consequences:
 - Jacob's need to flee
 - Esau's rage and desire for revenge
 - and the deep fracture within the family.
 - **Manipulation, even with good intentions, always leads to brokenness.**
- **Ask This:** Where in your own life are you tempted to "help" God by manipulating situations to get the outcome you desire?

III. The Principle: Trusting God's Sovereignty

- Look at the efforts of Rebekah and Jacob in order to "fulfill" God's will
 - What would life had looked like if they simply would have let God work things out in His time?
- How arrogant we can be to believe that God needs our help?
 - Isn't God Sovereign?

- Aren't His plans always better
- Maybe you think that God just knew what Jacob and Rebekah were going to do, so He filled them in
- Again, how arrogant can we be?
- Yes, God did know what was going to happen
- That does not dismiss us from honoring Him with our life
- And knowing God is going to do something doesn't excuse us to intercede
- When we know the outcome and "help" God out, we may not negate His plan, but man will we complicate it
- Perhaps when we are filled with desires to see His plans now
 - Or become fearful that it won't happen in our timing
 - We could stop and pray and ask God to help us keep our eyes on Him and not on the outcome or the timing

- **Ask This:** What does it practically look like to trust God in the midst of uncertainty and delayed gratification?

IV. The Promise: God's Unwavering Faithfulness

- Note this...Rebekah and Jacobs impatience did not negate God's promise...we cannot undo Grace
 - Although the path was wrong
 - Jacob still received the birthright and blessing of Isaac...just as God had said
- God is and always will be faithful to His Word, even when we aren't
- When we aren't faithful, there is always a cost
 - Jacob lost his home
 - His closeness to his mother and father
 - His relationship with his brother
 - Rebekah lost her son and I'm sure was hated by Esau
- **God's grace covers our failures, but it doesn't erase the impact of our choices.**

Conclusion:

- Trust God's plan, even when it's unclear or uncomfortable.
 - Resist the temptation to manipulate circumstances to force our desired outcome.
- Maybe there's an area in your life where you have or are trying to "help God out"
- Let me pray for you to yield to God's Word and Spirit and allow God to be the One who Plans His Work and Works His Plan
- Remember this, God is faithful, and He will bring His purposes to pass in your life, as you trust in Him.
- Well, Pastor, is there a word from God that we can hold onto?
- **Philippians 1:6** Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ: